

EMPIRES OF SOUTH ASIA



DYNASTIES OF SOUTH ASIA

MAURYA DYNASTY (MAWR YAH) 140 YEARS

LEADER CHANDRAGUPTA DESPOT/ NEVER SLEPT IN THE .. /FOOD TESTER

- VAST EMPIRE CONQUERED / TAX SYSTEM / IRRIGATION /ROADS
- PASS PORTS FOR ALL FOREIGNERS / EVERYONE CARRIED ID PAPERS
- PEACE WITHIN THE EMPIRE PROMOTED TRADE



GRANDSON – ASOKA CONVERTED TO BUDDHISM

- TOLERANCE & NONVIOLENT/ ENDED ANIMAL SACRIFICES
- LAWS CARVED ON STONE PILLARS
- SPREAD BUDDHISM TO E. ASIA, AND S. E. ASIA (MISSIONARIES)
- BUILT SHRINES (STUPAS) PLANTED SHADE TREES
- IMPROVED ROADS (INFRASTRUCTURE)



GUPTA DYNASTY – GOLDEN AGE (HIGH POINT OF INDIAN CULTURE)

LEADER CHANDRAGUPTA I INCREASED SIZE OF EMPIRE

- PEACE / PROSPERITY – TRADE WITH CHINA
- ART / LITERATURE (POETRY) MATH (0) SCIENCE (CORRECT SIZE OF EARTH)



MUSLIM EMPIRES

LEADERS DELHI SULTANS

- HINDUS TAXED / COLLEGES BUILT/DAMS/RESERVOIRS/HOSPITALS/NEW TOWNS/

MONGOLS (BARBER) MUGHAL EMPIRE

- AKBAR THE GREAT – 1542-1605 TOLERATION / MASTER OF COMPROMISE
- HINDU TAX ABOLISHED/ HINDUS GOV. JOBS/ MARRIED HINDU PRINCES/
- KILLING OF COWS A CAPITAL CRIME

- SHAH JAHAN – TAJ MAHAL
- SUCCESSOR ENDED TOLERANCE REVERTED BACK TO ATTACKING HINDUS
- CIVIL WAR HINDU / MUSLIM

WEAKENED S. ASIA PAVED THE WAY FOR EUROPEAN IMPERIALISM

READ THE DOCUMENT “CHANDRAGUPTA MAURYA” THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

1. AS A YOUNG MAN WHAT DID CHANDRAGUPTA MAURYA DO FOR A LIVING? _____
2. WHO HAD IMPERIALIZED THE PUNJAB AND....DRIVEN OUT BY CHANDRAGUPTA? _____
3. LIST TWO WEAPONS USED BY CHANDRAGUPTA TO DEFEAT HIS ENEMIES. _____ & _____
4. LIST TWO RIVER VALLEYS CONQUERED BY CHANDRAGUPTA. _____ & _____
5. DEFINE THE TERM “*AUTHORITARIAN*”. (USE A DICTIONARY)

6. LIST TWO EXAMPLES OF PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS DONE BY HIS GOVERNMENT. _____ & _____
7. WHAT DID CHANDRAGUPTA DO FOR FEAR OF BEING ASSASSINATED?

8. USE THE DICTIONARY AGAIN ..LOOK UP (ABDICATE) _____

WHO TOOK HIS POSITION? _____
9. WHAT DID TRADITION SAY HAPPENED TO CHANDRAGUPTA?

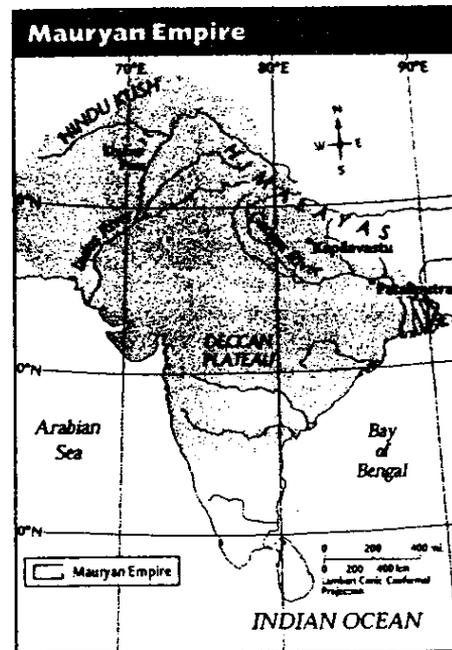
10. WHO WAS CHANDRAGUPTA’S GRANDSON? _____
WHY IS HE IMPORTANT TO INDIAN HISTORY? _____

Chandragupta Maurya (ruled c. 321 B.C.–c. 298 B.C.)

The food at the center of the dish is hottest.—Chandragupta, explaining his strategy of conquering the outlying areas of kingdoms first

Chandragupta Maurya was the founder and first ruler of the Mauryan Empire in northern India. Much of what is known about him is learned from a foreign diplomat who resided in Chandragupta's court. Although many details are lost to history, the man who wrote about Chandragupta left a picture of an intelligent and ambitious ruler.

As a young army officer, Chandragupta apparently developed a plan to unify and build an empire out of the many small kingdoms in northern India. He organized a revolt that ended Greek rule in the Punjab and then led his army in the capture of the Magada kingdom. From this base, he focused on expanding his empire through both the threat of force and its actual use. His method was straightforward and effective: his armies would harass the outer areas of the kingdoms, drain their strength and resources, and, when the time was right, move in and take over. With each victory, Chandragupta's power and influence spread, and his armies grew. The diplomat who wrote of him tells of an army of 700,000 soldiers, 10,000 chariots, and 9,000 elephants—an awesome sight to any would-be adversary. By about 303 B.C., Chandragupta controlled the valuable Indus and Ganges River plains, as well as



regions in northwestern India. Soon thereafter, Chandragupta had also gained control of parts of Afghanistan.

Chandragupta was an authoritarian ruler who instituted and strictly enforced harsh laws. He reigned over a complex bureaucracy of his own creation. Government officials directed economic activities of the empire. They also oversaw massive public works projects, which included irrigation projects and sophisticated roads. For example, the Great Royal Road stretched for 1,863 miles (3,000 kilometers)! Along this and ancillary roads traveled workers in an efficient postal service. Chandragupta was

apparently not confident in his rule, however. This great leader rarely left his huge, lavish palace for fear of assassination. He is said to have slept in a different room every night, and to have had his food tasted for poison. He also established a vast "secret service" that seemed designed, at least in part, to protect him and his position.

In about 297 B.C., Chandragupta abdicated his throne so that his son could take over. Tradition has it that he became a monk and fasted until he starved himself to death. Asoka, the enlightened king who was the last great ruler of the Mauryan Empire, was Chandragupta's grandson.

First Empires of India

BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about the influence ancient Rome.

In this section, you will read about the Mauryan and Gupta Empires in India.

AS YOU READ

Use the time line below to take notes on the first empires of India.

TERMS AND NAMES

Mauryan Empire First empire in India, founded by Chandragupta Maurya

Asoka Grandson of Chandragupta; leader who brought the Mauryan Empire to its greatest height

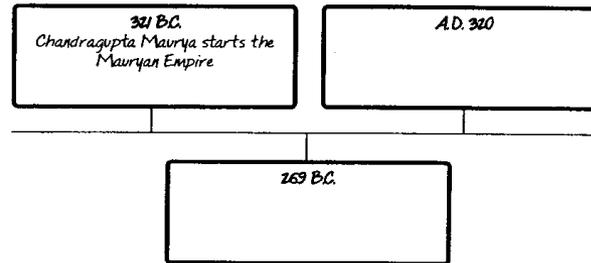
religious toleration Acceptance of the right of people to have differing religious beliefs

Tamil Language of southern India; also the people who speak that language

Gupta Empire Second empire in India, founded by Chandra Gupta I

patriarchal Relating to a social system in which the father is the head of the family

matriarchal Relating to a social system in which the mother is the head of the family



Chandragupta Maurya Builds an Empire (pages 173–174)

How did the Mauryan Empire begin?

In 321 B.C., Chandragupta Maurya used his army to defeat the king of eastern India. He became king and started the **Mauryan Empire**.

Chandragupta then moved west. In 305 B.C., he began to challenge Seleucus, one of Alexander the Great's generals. The two armies fought for several years. Eventually Chandragupta won. For the first time, northern India was joined under the rule of one person.

Chandragupta was a harsh ruler. He charged a heavy tax on farmers—one-half of the crop they grew each year. He used this wealth to build a huge army. He controlled his government by carefully choosing officials and watching them closely. He split his empire into four *provinces*, each ruled by a prince. These areas, in turn, were divided into smaller pieces that were run by members of the government. Life in Chandragupta's court was rich. The palace and capital city were beautiful.

Chandragupta's grandson, **Asoka**, took the throne in 269 B.C. He brought the Mauryan Empire to its greatest height. At first he was a warlike king and fought many fierce battles with an

enemy to the south. Then he decided to accept the teachings of the Buddha.

Asoka promised to rule in a fair and just way. He issued laws that urged his subjects to avoid violence. He urged **religious toleration**. This is acceptance of people's rights to differing religious beliefs. He made great roads so that people could travel easily. Soon after Asoka died, however, his empire collapsed.

1. What changes did Asoka make in the Mauryan Empire?

A Period of Turmoil

What troubles did India face?

For 500 years after Asoka, India was a land of troubles. In the center of India, a new kingdom—the Andhra Dynasty—*dominated* the region. In the northwest, many Greeks, Persians, and Central Asians entered the land. They were fleeing the invasions of others. These peoples added new ideas and languages to India's rich mix of culture. In the south, three different kingdoms fought each other off and on. The people who lived in this region spoke the **Tamil** language. They are called the Tamil people.

2. Who are the Tamils?

The Gupta Empire

What was life like in the Gupta Empire?

Around A.D. 320, Chandra Gupta I came to power in the north. He was not related to the first emperor. He took the title of king and began to conquer other areas.

His son followed the same policy. For 40 years, he fought to win new lands for the **Gupta Empire**. His son, Chandra Gupta II, brought the empire to its largest size. He managed to take parts of western India, including some important ports on the Indian Ocean. With these, the Guptas were able to take part in the rich trade that connected India, Southwest Asia, and the world of the Mediterranean Sea. The Gupta empire stretched all across northern India.

Most Indians lived in villages and were farmers. Part of each crop that they grew had to be paid to the king each year. Farmers also had to set aside part of each month to work on community resources, such as wells or dams. Craft workers and those who worked in trade lived in special sections of each village, town, or city.

Most families in northern India were **patriarchal**. They were headed by the oldest male. But in southern India, some Tamil families were **matriarchal**. This meant the mother was head of the family. Property, and sometimes the throne, were passed through the female side of the family.

The Gupta kings were *patrons* of the arts. Artists *flourished* during the Gupta rule. The people were happy, according to a Chinese traveler who spent many years in India. However, this period of calm ended not long after the death of Chandra Gupta II. Another wave of invaders moved into India. Soon the great Gupta Empire had broken up into several smaller kingdoms.

3. How did the Gupta Empire end?
